

By RAY ROBERTSON

Middlesbrough 1, Wycombe 0

**M**IDDLESBROUGH won this FA Cup third round replay in dramatic style. Gallant Wycombe defied them until the final minute when a David Armstrong goal released the pent up emotions of a 31,000 crowd.

So Middlesbrough march into the next round and a guaranteed full house with Sunderland at Ayresome Park. Middlesbrough would have won more decisively if they had taken scoring chances but the glory last night went to the fighting non-League side.

At the final whistle the crowd rose in tribute. It was one the best ever standing ovations ever recorded to a team at Ayresome Park.

Jack Charlton walked to the touchline to congratulate the Wycombe players and even referee Alan Porter of Bolton joined in the applause.

Wycombe proved themselves a well organised, battling team. Despite tremendous pressure they stuck at it and refused to be drawn out of position.

Extra time loomed when Graeme Souness slipped the ball through for Armstrong. The England Under-23 international moved on to the ball in a flash, drew goalkeeper John Maskell and calmly slipped the ball past him into a corner of the net.

After the match, Mr Charles Amer, the Middlesbrough chairman, sent bottles of champagne into the Wycombe dressing room.

Middlesbrough began with a rush and David Mills, in the second minute, could have prevented all the anxiety that followed if he had taken advantage of a good scoring chance.

Middlesbrough, who recalled Harry Charlton on the right wing for Peter Brine, created more chances in the 90 minutes. Yet Wycombe simply refused to buckle under.

In the second half Charlton pulled off Alan Foggon and sent on substitute Alan Willey. The 18-year-old centre forward came near to scoring on two occasions. Only the woodwork prevented a header and a shot from making him a hero.

In the second half, it looked as though Middlesbrough were destined not to score. Maskell brought off brilliant saves and shots were put wide.

Jack Charlton summed up: "I am glad it is all over. It was a funny game. There was nothing I could do about it on the bench. It was astonishing that the Wycombe defence never lost control."

Centre half and captain Stuart Boam said: "I thought we were never going to score. We could have been six up at half time. Their goalkeeper played brilliantly in the second half."

Brian Lee said he was proud of his side. "Now Middlesbrough can repay us by going all the way to the final. They have sufficient character to do just that."

"I think we did ourselves justice but, once again, I don't think Middlesbrough showed what they are really capable of. I am sure they will play better against Sunderland."

Overall, a sporting game. The referee kept play moving all the time and neither trainer was called on to the field.